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Statement submitted by Christian Blind Mission, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

The theme for the 2015 session of the Economic and Social Council is "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: what it will take."

Persons with disabilities were absent from the Millennium Declaration and have remained so throughout the Millennium Development Goals processes. There is wide recognition that progress within the existing framework has not been equitable and that persons with disabilities are disproportionately represented among those left behind by recent development gains. The exclusion and invisibility of persons with disabilities in the Millennium Development Goals is indicative of how this development framework is not reaching the most marginalized populations and thus not fully inclusive.

Persons with disabilities have actively participated in the post-2015 development process with outcomes including 9 references in the "Report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals," five references to persons with disabilities and two additional references to universal design in the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030" and four explicit disability indicators in the United Nations Statistical Commission indicator development draft document from March 18th. There is a growing understanding and acceptance for the need for disability disaggregated data and statistics in the post-2015 development framework among Member States. There is a need to continue to advocate for more measurable disability-specific indicators in the post-2015 indicator development framework on both technical and political levels to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in the implementation process.

To ensure inclusive and effective implementation of the post-2015 development agenda for all persons, the United Nations system must support an inclusive and sustainable process to reach all persons. To ensure inclusive participation in the implementation of the new agenda, the United Nations must support the work of governments, provide recommendations and identify gaps. Furthermore, efforts must be taken to strengthen interlinkages with the implementation and accountability of the post-2015 development framework and other global processes, mechanisms and commitments. Moreover, the post-2015 development agenda will only be realised through the achievement of existing internationally agreed human rights commitments, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

A truly inclusive society that leaves no one behind cannot be achieved without the global empowerment of persons with disabilities. In order to advance the rights of persons with disabilities and build a better world for all, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities must serve as a foundation to achieve a society, which values diversity, respects equality and realises the full potential of persons with disabilities.